

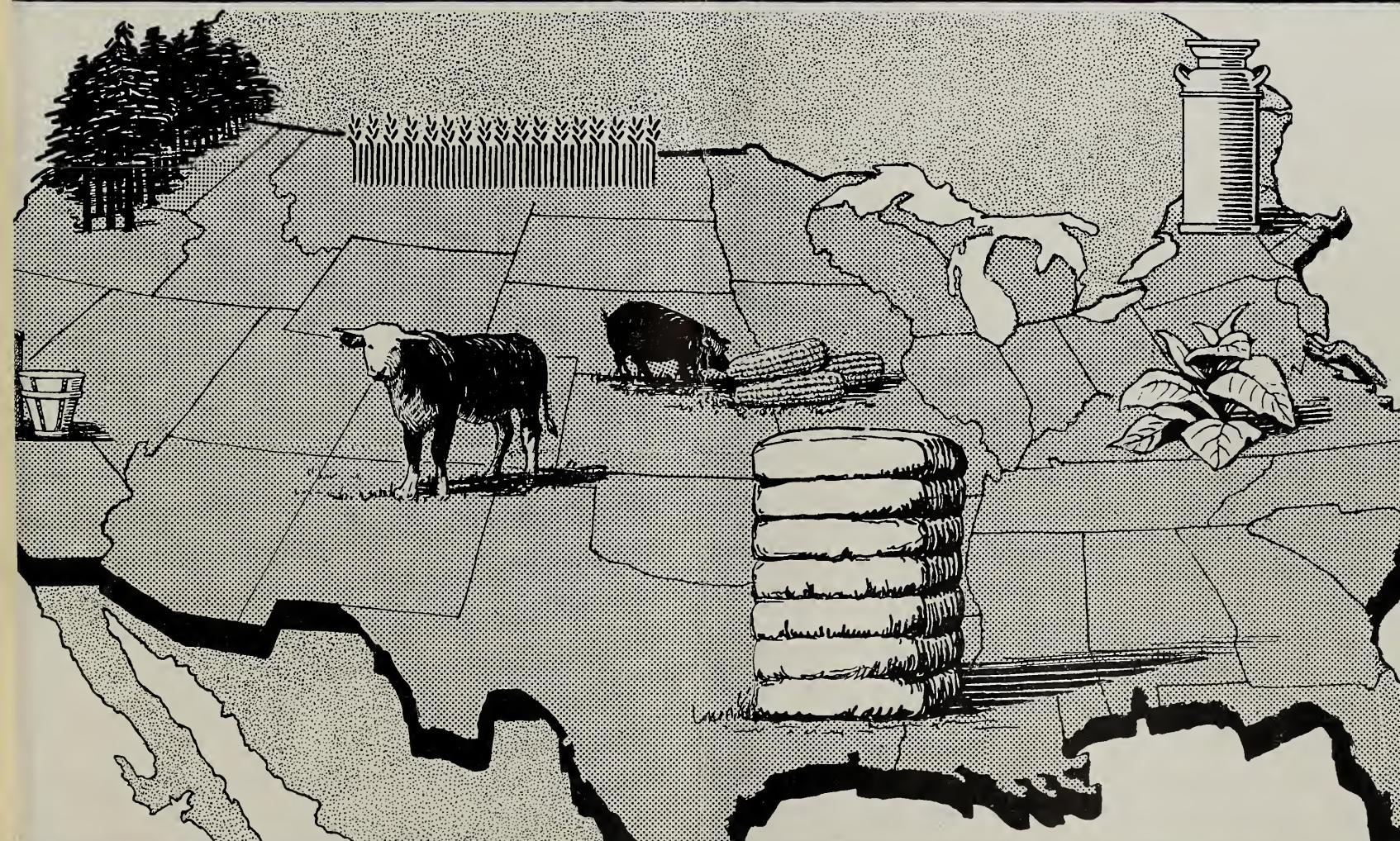
## **Historic, Archive Document**

**Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.**



# Extension Service REVIEW

Library, Southwest Regional  
Soil Conservation Service  
Albuquerque, New Mexico



**VOLUME 10  
NUMBER 7**

**JULY  
1939**

The agricultural program must do two things at once, consider the advantages of decentralization of Federal power to attain definite objectives, and at the same time consider the broad concept of national unity. To develop a state of mind that holds both concepts simultaneously is a real art indeed; and yet we are all devoted to that art in terms of the hard, difficult, practical problems as they exist.

HENRY A. WALLACE.

# PROBLEMS, CONDITIONS, AND PEOPLE WILL VARY BUT

## Common Goals Give Unity

AN Editorial

■ "It is a mystery which always fascinates me to see the unity in the midst of diversity which is evident whenever we have a gathering in Washington representing the 48 States and Territories," said Secretary Wallace at a recent meeting of county extension agents.

Is unity of purpose in the midst of the diversity of regional agriculture and varying social backgrounds possible? Can we have the unity which develops strength to solve the fundamental problems of mankind and at the same time have the diversity which gives free play to human talents?

The conditions under which extension agents work are as diverse as possible. The tidy New England village, the far-flung western cattle ranch, the share cropper's cotton patch, the specialized and well-organized orange grove, the isolated fur farm in Alaska, the Japanese-Hawaiian truck farm, the small Puerto Rican barrio—all are served by extension agents who must pursue their work in a way best suited to the needs of their farm people. Yet it is evident in every national conference of extension workers and evident in the articles submitted for publication in the Review that there is a unity of belief and purpose running like a silver thread through all that extension workers say and do.

In a recent Nation-wide conference of representative county agricultural and home demonstration agents, this was evident as the agents discussed some of the things which are a part of the common body of extension beliefs and aims.

"What we need," said a county agent from Nebraska, "is more diversification—the farmers should get dairy cows."

"But what about our farmers who have dairy cows, haul their milk to the depot, and cannot sell it—tell them to grow potatoes to eat?" broke in a home demonstration agent from New York.

"Oh, no," remonstrated an Idaho agent, "we can't sell our potatoes as it is."

These very paradoxes helped to emphasize the common desire of all the agents to encourage a prosperous agriculture and to raise the standard of living in the

farm home. Secretary Wallace phrased it this way:

"I am filled with awe at the way such a conference can discuss States' rights and all that can come from decentralization of Federal power to attain certain objectives, even down to the smallest subdivision, and can, at the same time, consider the unification of all the States' problems in terms of a broad concept of national unity. To develop a state of mind that holds both concepts simultaneously is a real art indeed; and yet every one of our national meetings is devoted to that art in terms of the hard, difficult, practical problems as they exist."

Possibly the twenty-fifth anniversary has served to emphasize the beliefs and aims which all extension agents have in common, no matter what their regional or local problems. Dr. J. A. Evans, discussing what the Extension Service of the future needs; Mrs. Barrows, reviewing the work for better homes in Utah; and Director Hutcheson, appraising the achievements of the Extension Service in Virginia, will strike a common note of needs and of ideals to many agents in many parts of the country. Even the discussion of southern problems by Professor Firor will make many a western, northern, or eastern agent nod "Yes, that is our problem too."

Director Warburton, in his anniversary radio talk on May 8, suggested some of the things which he feels extension workers everywhere hold in common. First, he spoke of the heritage of cooperation:

"To me, it is significant that those who wrote the act signed 25 years ago designated the agency they were setting up as the Cooperative Extension Service. It is our earnest hope that in the future, as in the past, the work of the Extension Service will be truly cooperative—a joint effort of Federal, State, and county government and of rural people."

Then, listing some of our common aims for the future, he continued:

"We want the Extension Service ever to be forward-looking, giving aid to rural people in meeting emergencies when they appear, but never losing sight of the major

objective—making rural America, all America, a better, more satisfying place to live. Prominent in extension programs in the immediate future, I should expect to see more efficient farming and homemaking; conservation of our soils, our forests, and our wildlife; the improvement of our rural homes and their surroundings; more community enterprise; more attention to cultural development in the family and the community through good reading, good music, and the like—in short, a higher standard of living for rural America."

Assistant Director Reuben Brigham suggests a newer phase of extension work which he feels is being added to the common goals and objectives of modern agents. He expresses it as "the encouragement of farm people to cooperate with each other and with their State and Federal Government on a State and national basis." Explaining his idea further, he continues: "For our farmers, farm women, and farm boys and girls to understand and feel that something can and should be done in regard to State, national, and international situations now and in the future is imperative."

Reviewing some of the elements which Secretary Wallace believed were a part or should be a part of the body of belief or, as he expressed it, the credo of all who worked for the benefit of agriculture, he first mentioned the desirability of the family sized farm, a farm which is operated by the owner; second, the maintenance and improvement of the soil which makes for stability, continuity of tenure, and the security of those who live on the land; third, efficiency of production and marketing which is a well-accepted fact needing no argument; and, fourth, the belief that the farmer must have a fair share of the national income by methods which stabilize prices and supplies.

Many agents would add or subtract from these ideas, for the extension credo is flexible and in the process of growing, but they would still acknowledge that there is such a body of belief which runs through extension activities like a silver thread giving strength through a unity of effort towards common goals.

For July 1939 • Lester A. Schlup, Editor

Published monthly by direction of the Secretary of Agriculture as administrative information required for the proper transaction of the public business. The REVIEW is issued free by law to workers engaged in extension activities. Others may obtain copies from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at 10 cents per copy or by subscription at 75 cents a year, domestic, and \$1.15, foreign. Postage stamps are not acceptable in payment.

EXTENSION SERVICE, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C. • C. W. WARBURTON, Director • REUBEN BRIGHAM, Assistant Director

## Southerners List Six Problems of the South

**WILLIAM FIROR, Head of Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, University of Georgia**

Last year, Professor Firor was employed by the United States Department of Agriculture to make a special study of farm problems of the South. He visited practically all the Southern States, always asking the questions: What are the agricultural problems of the South, and what should be done to solve these problems? He summarizes here some of the answers.

The time has come to give long and serious consideration to the problems of the South. I realize that nothing is to be gained by merely threshing over our difficulties unless we do something about them. To discuss our problems and do nothing about them is not only a waste of time but often disheartening and depressing.

However, the people of this country today are willing to support programs for improving farm conditions, and they are interested in increasing the purchasing power of southern farmers. A national farm program is being developed, and provision is being made for the research and scientific work necessary to maintain this program. The Extension Service, with the most effective practical farm organization that this country has yet seen, is carrying the farm program to the farm people.

Among the practical farm problems told to me as I traveled through the South, first place must be given to lack of farm income. During the 12-year period from 1925 to 1936, the gross farm income per person in the 10 major cotton States has averaged only \$190. In 1932 this per-person gross farm income averaged only \$98. For Georgia in 1932, it



J. William Firor

was only \$70, although in 1934 it had increased to \$122 and in 1935 to \$139. These figures are not net but gross, and I do not believe it is necessary to discuss them any further in drawing the conclusion that our farm income in the South has been and still is too low to enable us to do the things that we think should be done.

The second farm problem, according to the thinking of the southern agriculturists, is the problem of farm population in relation to our farm resources. During many of the last 100 years the South has been expanding its cotton and tobacco enterprises. These are crops which require a great deal of labor per acre and which, in some years, have brought large income per acre. Consequently, for a long time there has been a need for many people to cultivate and harvest these

commercial crops. During the years since the World War we have found it periodically more and more difficult to sell surpluses of these crops, but when we attempt to switch to crops that require much less labor we then have surplus population. We then have unemployment on the farm. Furthermore, families are relatively large in the South, and, if no one moved away from the farms or moved to the farms, within about 25 years the farm population would double. We have a problem of finding employment for an increasing farm population.

We are putting in third place on this list of southern farm problems the lack of modern marketing facilities. The automotive vehicle has changed our habits and has made it necessary to adjust all of our economic activities. Most of all, it has changed the time element in location. The town which used to be a day's distance from a farm is today only half an hour's distance.

Our markets and our marketing facilities must be rebuilt to meet the conditions of transportation today.

There is a job to be done in finding where concentrating and distributing markets for miscellaneous products from small-scale productions should be located, and with this determination there is a big job in building the markets which will facilitate the assembling of many products adapted to our soils and climate.

Fourth on this list, I have put the conservation of our agricultural resources. Fundamentally, this should have come first. "Make the land rich, and it will make you rich" is an old saying among farmers. Because we have open winters and heavy rainfall, as soon as the land is cleared for cultivated crops all except the most level tracts erode.

The United States Soil Conservation and the Agricultural Extension Services of the States are today struggling with this problem. The ultimate objective is to capitalize these natural elements instead of allowing them to

# Quarter-Century Milepost

**J. C. KENDALL, Director, New Hampshire Extension Service**

destroy us. To do this, we must find ways to use our land and at the same time have it left in a condition that it will produce more not less. We must find ways to use the summer sunshine and the winter warmth for growing nitrogen and conserving plant food, ways to use the heat and water in producing farm products. We must catch the plant food before it leaches out of the soil, and the way to do this is to have it used by plants which also will return it to the land.

The question of live-at-home farming is placed fifth because it was given much consideration by those with whom I talked. We are confused as to the meaning of live-at-home farming. Some of us are fiery advocates of a live-at-home program without fully realizing that this is 1938, not 1838. In a sense, we have preached live-at-home while the farmers of the South have become more and more specialized and commercialized. Others take the position that in this day and time, when we have mass production, national advertising, increased use of expensive implements on farms, it is not economical to diversify.

This question is complicated by the unemployment of the country as a whole. If farmers become more efficient, it means that we shall need fewer farmers. If surplus farm people go to town, we have more unemployment. Then, to solve the unemployment of towns, someone suggests placing those people on farms, and we are back where we started. This surely is a problem crying for study and careful planning instead of mere preaching "Live at home."

Last on this list of six problems has been placed that of price relationship.

Often people dismiss the question of prices by saying that in the long run supply and demand will always make the price. But prices are influenced by many things. The laws of prices are many. Some prices in a free economy respond quickly to changing supply-and-demand situations, whereas others are slow to change. The price of any commodity is determined by the supply and demand of that commodity and also by the purchasing power of money—the purchasing power of money is not fixed. Some prices are, in this day and time, fixed by monopoly or governmental regulation. Some prices are influenced by the nature of certain businesses.

The prices of cotton and tobacco are greatly influenced by the state of export trade and foreign commerce in general. In the past, one-half of our principal cash crop—cotton—has gone to foreign customers. The South has about one-half of the farm population of this Nation. This means that the regular job of one-fourth of the farmers of the United States has been to work for foreign countries. The pay these workers get will depend upon the goods the foreign people send us. To work for foreign people and then put up barriers that prevent them returning the work does not make sense; yet, this we have been doing. We have been sell-

■ Looking back over the last 25 years of extension work, one is impressed principally, I think, by the enlargement of our horizons. Most rural people were still, in 1914, in the "horse-and-buggy" age. Each farm was an individual problem. Farm women were, to a large extent, isolated. Boys and girls were limited in their social life.

We have witnessed important changes. Not only modes of travel but thought patterns have been revolutionized. Farm people are thinking in terms of larger units economically, educationally, socially, and governmentally; and it seems reasonable to believe that this process of a widening circle will continue during the quarter century that lies ahead.

Authorities surveying the subject of adult education report that our cooperative extension system in agriculture and home economics is the most significant and generally successful development in the entire field. If this is true, is it not logical that our system should be expanded to meet the many demands in other departments of knowledge? It so happens that, in New Hampshire, during the past year, we have been delegated with the authority of the university to develop a general extension service, including work in liberal arts and technology in addition to the regular cooperative projects. Funds have, as yet, permitted only a modest start in the new fields; but it seems clear that the arrangement will be an enriching addition to our agricultural work. We can bring to bear on a given farm or community problem a much greater battery of talent. In the face of complex questions involving government, economics, sociology, history, philosophy, psychology, education, biology, it is often difficult to tell where the quest for a solution will lead.

Furthermore, so far as the administration of extension work goes, we are finding many efficiencies in the combination of objectives. Our editorial activities, including radio and visual aids, have been widened to cover the

new fields; and a similar process is under way in respect to institutes and short courses. The same principles hold good, and the circle of interest is greatly widened.

As to what this may mean to our county programs is not entirely clear; but one thing seems probable: The tendency to a greater self-determination of programs on the part of local people may be expected to continue. We should facilitate the process in every way possible. It seems to us that the logical method is through the organization of our own local volunteer leaders into community councils. We cannot escape the fact that the major interest of our farmers will always be a commodity interest in whatever type of farming they happen to be engaged. The chief meaning of extension work to a dairyman, for instance, will lie in dairying; to a poultryman, in poultry. Therefore, although we must be moderate in our suggestions, we should capitalize on their known interest and encourage its extension into community, county, and State affairs. It would seem that on a few occasions during the year the local leaders in each extension project might pool their interests in a council meeting. Land-use programs should thus grow from the grass roots. Community consideration of the problems of the underprivileged groups should also be a natural outcome. And these community councils find a ready access to the public at large through annual achievement nights, in which farmers and farm women, as well as 4-H club members, report the results of the year. In this way we become better prepared for consideration of our common problems. This should mean more sound and more efficient community, county, and State programs.

In the last 25 years life has not remained static. The ground has shifted in many places under our feet, and we must be prepared to keep our own point of view adapted to the changing scene.

---

ing our cotton and tobacco at prices made in a world market and buying things made in a protected and monopolistic market.

The problem of farm prices is a national problem. It is something that all of the people must deal with through their government. At the present time, the problem itself is not understood. Many people in the South are opposed to efforts that would increase international trade and yet are asking for better foreign markets for their cotton and

tobacco. Some people in the South preach self-sufficiency and demand higher prices for cotton and tobacco.

In conclusion, I should like to call especial attention to a firm conviction. The time has come in the South when many people must give long and serious study to the problems of the South and long and serious efforts to their practical solution, or only luck will prevent us from experiencing more difficult economic situations than we had in 1932.

# Utah Homes—Then and Now

**EFFIE S. BARROWS, Home Furnishing Specialist, Utah**

■ In this, Extension's anniversary year, we might cast an appraising eye on developments in the average farm home during the last quarter century. Farm homes of Utah have always been located in communities, with farm lands lying in the open spaces adjacent to the towns. This was the plan of the Mormon pioneers.

In the large houses were many rooms—big, bleak bedrooms; "half-acre" kitchens; steep, winding stairs; and medium-sized living rooms that were made to appear more spacious by an adjoining dining room separated only by a massive dark colonnade or by heavy double sliding doors. Buffets, pass cupboards, and desks were commonly built-in features, and they were as cumbrosomely designed as the colonnades. Baseboards and door and window casings also agreed in scale with all other massive features.

The pantry, which generally lacked light, was often the house workshop, equipped, perhaps with a galvanized sink, softwood drain and counter boards, and widely separated shelves which reached to the high ceiling. Where preparation areas were lacking in the pantry, stoves, cupboards, tables, and sinks were placed at widely separated intervals around the four walls of large kitchens, and the simplest food preparation entailed numerous trips to and from the pantry.

Clothes closets, if closets there were, happened to be of the miniature room size where wanted garments were hidden behind numerous other articles or were lost under mounds of clothing that had slipped from peg to floor. Homes without closets were so because "it seemed a shame to cut up good floor space for such useless contraptions as closets when clothes could easily hang on pegs behind the door."

Heating systems were rare, and insulation was little known. Keeping stoves going while insulation was lacking made inroads on both money and time budgets of the family. Windows were often nailed down for winter as an economy measure to prevent the precious heat from flying out.

Some of the more prosperous farm homes were equipped with water systems and enjoyed running hot and cold water and even enameled plumbing fixtures. But most farm homes had to depend for water upon the farm well, pump, or irrigation ditch.

Electrical extensions reached very few isolated farms 25 years ago, but towns of any size were equipped with electricity, at least for lighting. However, the source of light was then a glaring, clear bulb.

Refrigeration of foods was done in various and sundry ways—springhouses, cellars, covered buckets dropped by a rope into the well, jars sunken into the earth, some built-in coolers, window boxes, crudely constructed water-cooled refrigerators, all offered solution to this problem. Some of the more successful farmers put up ice in winter to supply refrigeration for the ice box in summer.

Colors used in room decorations were generally heavy. The excuse for using such cheerless hues was to "keep dirt from showing."

When the Extension Service came on the scene, local leaders, specialists, and agents recognized the importance of providing more sanitary, more comfortable, and more cheerful home surroundings for the average farm home. In 1916, records indicate that three kitchens were remodeled and used as demonstrations. Kitchen-improvement contests became popular, and the influence of these bright, cheery, and efficient rooms just naturally spread to other rooms in the house which the farm women found dreary and uninviting in comparison.

The women were interested and wanted help in better lighting, water systems, and telephones for their homes. They learned to make labor-saving equipment and beautiful things to furnish their homes. To meet the increasing activities, a part-time specialist in housing and furnishings was employed in 1924, and 2 years later she was made a full-time worker.

Regular adult leaders' training schools were begun in the fall of 1926. With this new group of specially trained workers assisting, accomplishments in the betterment of the home grew rapidly. By 1928, home-improvement subprojects were conducted in 22 counties and in 175 communities, with 3,820 homemakers reporting that they had improved some part of the homes to make them more comfortable and cheerful.

The President's White House Conference on Home Building and Home Ownership and the farm housing survey of 1934 accelerated the interest in rural housing. At that time, 84 percent of the homes of the State were owned and only 16 percent were rented.

This survey proved that about 50 percent of the farm families were housed below a sustenance level as specified by sociological standards. The use of hot and cold water in the house, with sink, bathtub, and flush toilet, was among the accepted social standards for adequate and sanitary housing. The survey showed only 50 percent of the

homes provided with a sink and running hot and cold water, 33 percent with bathtubs, and 41 percent with indoor flush toilets.

The survey seemed to be a means of stimulating activity, even in the face of dropping incomes. Reports for 1934 and 1935 indicate that housing and furnishing programs were carried in 24 counties and in 229 communities; 18 homemakers were assisted in selecting new house plans; 57 were given help with remodeling plans; 35 homes installed insulation; 98 sewage systems were installed; 301 kitchens were improved; 720 other rooms were given special attention; 720 families reconditioned furniture; and 1,035 families improved home furnishings. Figures then became more sizable for the various improvements made that required less money outlay.

With the increased building agitation of the past few years, numerous new products such as insulation, inexpensive wall boards, and various plastics have been invented, house plans that are models of convenience have been made easily accessible; home building convenience factors have been perfected; indoor lighting has become comparable in comfort to daylight; and household equipment that performs in a manner previously unbelievable has been invented. The tendency has been to get away from nonessentials and things that complicate the job of housekeeping.

Homes today are finished in light, restful colors. They are well ventilated and are easily and economically heated.

The family is rare which has not had opportunity to learn about modern living conditions through radio programs, through the press, and as a result of community programs conducted by the Extension Service.

Only a few years ago older persons considered it absurd to go to school, but now they come en masse to learn of plans for better living as emphasized in our extension programs.

In this, the year 1939, even the poorest family is living in a day of opportunity when the most meager house may become a home through right living within and at a very little cost if the owners follow the "Extension Way."

## Extension History Recorded

To mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Smith-Lever Act, the Federal Extension Office has requested that State and county extension workers include in their 1939 annual reports a brief history of the extension work in their respective areas. So as to maintain uniformity in reporting, three different outlines have been prepared for the field workers to follow in writing these extension chronicles—one for the county workers' collaborative account of county extension work and one each for the supervisors and specialists to use in making their historical appraisals.

# Education, Thrift, Cooperation

J. A. EVANS, Administrative Assistant, Georgia

This is the second of two articles by Dr. Evans, who was one of the first four field representatives appointed by Dr. Seamen A. Knapp in 1904. Having grown up with the Service, he draws from his rich experience as agent and administrator both in the field and in Washington. Last month Dr. Evans looked at the problem of rural poverty in the light of 25 years of Cooperative Extension Work.

■ Mass education, thrift, organized cooperation! In these things lies our hope for the future of American agriculture!

A promising beginning in rural organization is being made in the South, largely through the efforts of the home demonstration agents, in converting abandoned county schoolhouses and churches into clubhouses that may serve as community centers. The people of rural communities must be encouraged to organize for social, educational, and economic purposes. The institutions of the countryside must be supported and strengthened.

A rural culture, based on thrift, the love of home and the soil; and the ambition to conserve, develop, and beautify our farms as a precious heritage to be passed on to our children, must replace our blind imitation of city life and customs.

Herein lies the supreme challenge to the Extension Service and all other educational agencies serving agriculture. We must, through education, strive to change attitudes, relationships, and outlook, as well as practices.

I am not uneasy about the future. On the contrary, I believe that additional responsibilities and duties, and with them a continued expansion and strengthening of the Extension Service is definitely to be expected. I do not think that Extension will entirely take over any of the other Federal programs, but I do believe that economy and efficiency will demand closer coordination of the actual work in the field than at present and that

greater responsibility for its prosecution be placed on the Extension Service. To my mind, the cooperative arrangement now in effect in the TVA territory is about the pattern that will eventually be adopted in regard to the other programs.

The agent, for instance, who does not have and actively carry on a well-planned and organized soil-conservation program is just sleeping on his rights and opportunities. The farmers are becoming actively conscious of the need for soil conservation and will be clamoring for help, and the county agent cannot lie down on the job. He must get all the technical assistance and information possible from the Soil Conservation Service and be sure that what he does will fit in with permanent plans. But he cannot wait for them to get around to doing all the work. In other words, the agent must keep ahead of the crowd. He must take the leadership in his own county in soil conservation, as in other places of a well-rounded extension program.

One of our major problems is that of conserving and restoring the fertility of our soil. It is a "must" program. The alternative is constantly increasing rural poverty and abandonment of the land, but a successful soil-conservation program will be difficult, or impossible, as long as a large percentage of farm operators change farms yearly. Improvement in landlord-tenant relations is, therefore, a related problem. Both owner and operator, under whatever form of tenure, must be educated to appreciate the fact that their common good requires stability of relations and cooperation in efforts to improve the soil and to better the economic conditions and living standards of each.

As never before, it becomes clear that our field is not that of economics alone, but that we must concern ourselves with things of social and cultural value as well. Rural attitudes, philosophy, and outlook may be of even more importance to the farmers and the country than high income. "We may have wealth and social prosperity and home comforts and not be a high-minded, stalwart, courageous people. We must teach that," said Dr. Knapp.

The extension organization of today has back of it a great philosophy, a tradition of service, and a proved educational technique. Better than any other agency in the world it is equipped to grapple with all the prob-

lems of agriculture. I am sure that the founder would say to you as he did to the pioneer agents: "I want you to feel today that you have hold of one of the greatest lines of social uplift and development and greatness that exists."

You must carry on the philosophy and the tradition of service which is part of your inheritance as an extension worker. May it be said of you, as it was of Dr. Knapp, that "he implanted the spirit of service" in the breasts of his fellow men. For it is only in this way that you can multiply your work and your results.

The sincere love of your fellow farmers and an earnest desire to help them is essential to your success.

"It is not the man who knows the most who is most successful," said Dr. Knapp, "but the man who imports an implicit belief in his message." That you may all prove worthy disciples of a great leader is my earnest wish.

## Iowa Surveys Youthful Interests

The main reason given by 650 rural young people of 24 Iowa counties for joining a rural young people's group was to learn to know more young people. Other reasons were the desire to participate in social functions and to develop a more adequate rural life.

Despite the seemingly general social interests, these young men and women indicated that not more than 33 percent of their program should be recreational, 41 percent should be educational, and 26 percent should be service activities.

Educational activities most popular were highway safety, current events, study of etiquette and social courtesies, and farm management. Group singing, picnics, and "refreshments" were checked first in the recreational field. Service activities ranked in popularity as follows: Presenting home-talent plays at community meetings, sponsoring leadership in recreation, supplying local leaders for 4-H work, and assisting in 4-H achievement shows.

The young people indicated that they had found the rural youth programs most helpful in widening their acquaintance, providing social enjoyment, and informing them on timely subjects.

## To Increase Consumer Buying Power



A new method for getting farm products to the needy, to help widen domestic markets for farmers, and to increase consumption of price-depressing surpluses, is being tried out on an experimental basis. The surplus food-order stamp plan, directed by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation has been operating in Rochester, N. Y., since May 16. Rochester is the first of several cities in which the new program is to be tested.

The food stamp plan makes available to low-income families additional buying power in the form of special blue stamps. These stamps can be exchanged at the corner grocery for designated surplus farm products. To insure that food obtained with the surplus stamps is in addition to, and not in place of, foodstuffs which relief clients are normally buying with part of their regular relief allowance, definite safeguards are established in the plan. These include the use of orange-colored "regular" food-order stamps to provide for continuance of normal purchases. Under the plan, surpluses go from farmer to consumer through regular channels of trade. The plan provides incentives for food handlers to become better salesmen for the farmer.

The need for encouraging broader distribution and increased consumption of farm products has been recognized by American agriculture for a long time. The problem has been attacked from various angles in recent years. One approach has been through the purchase of surplus farm products by the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation for distribution through State welfare agencies to people on relief. During 1938 more than \$65,000,000 was spent for surplus commodities which were made available to a monthly average of 2,300,000 needy families.

The search for more effective methods of getting farm surpluses into the hands of

consumers who need them goes forward, but the direct buying and distributing program is being continued everywhere except where the new food stamp plan is actually in operation.

Surplus commodities obtainable with the blue stamps are listed in F. S. C. C. bulletins, after designation by the Secretary of Agriculture. The commodities on the first surplus list are: butter, shell eggs, dry edible beans, dried prunes, oranges, fresh grapefruit, wheat flour and whole-wheat (graham) flour, and corn meal. Other commodities, including fruits and vegetables as they come into surplus later in the season, will very probably be added to the list from time to time.

When the food-stamp program was launched, Secretary Wallace said: "At the same time that many American farmers suffer from producing too much, millions of American families suffer from not having enough to eat \* \* \*. As long as people in this country lack food, the sensible thing to do with farm surpluses is to make them available to undernourished people, so far as that is possible. This will not solve the whole farm problem, of course, any more than it will solve the whole relief

problem. But it can go a long way toward helping both farmers and consumers. Farmers need a broader market for their products; low-income consumers need a more adequate diet."

Secretary Wallace pointed out that if the stamp plan succeeds, "it will make three distinct contributions to the public welfare. (1) It will get more surplus farm products into consumption. That will help agriculture. (2) It will provide more and better food for low-income families. That will improve the public health and benefit the future of our people. (3) It will increase the volume of merchandise moving through the normal channels of trade. That will help all business."

Dayton, Ohio, and Seattle, Wash., in addition to Rochester, have already been selected as cities where the stamp plan will be tried out. Distribution of stamps started in Dayton on June 5, and operation of the plan was expected to get under way in Seattle about July 1.

Extension of the stamp plan to other areas, in the continuing fight against the paradox of want in the midst of plenty, will depend on the results of the experiment in the first test cities.

**Butter and more butter, tub on tub, and row on row. Large stocks of butter in storage which depress the price to the farmer.**



# A Forest Program and a Plan of Action

**F. A. SILCOX, Chief, Forest Service**

This, the sixth in a series of articles on the work of the Department of Agriculture, explains the plan of action for the Forest Service. As explained by Secretary Wallace in the first of the series, each bureau and office has its part to play in the national program for agriculture. Next month Milton Eisenhower, Director of Information and Land Use Coordinator, will write of the Department's informational program and how it contributes to common objectives.

■ A basic function of agriculture is to devise and apply methods and techniques by means of which the soils and waters that the good earth provides and the plant and animal life they yield may be used wisely and well, so that replenishment and upbuilding rather than depletion and destruction may go hand in hand with use.

With respect to forest lands and their resources and services, this, in brief, is the object of the Forest Service: Its major activities and responsibilities are (1) to protect, develop, and administer the publicly owned national forest system in the common interest; (2) to help to plan, correlate, coordinate, and apply broad and local action programs in the public welfare; (3) with the cooperation of the Extension Service, to encourage and to help establish adequate protection and management on State and privately owned forest lands; and (4) to conduct research in problems involving use, management, and renewal of forest and wild lands and their resources.

The Nation-wide forest inventory indicates that in the continental United States exclusive of Alaska there are 630 million acres—an area half again as large as all our crop lands—that, with minor exceptions, are not suitable for plow-land cultivation but are and probably always will be most valuable in forest growth. About 168 millions of these acres help to save fine farms and prosperous cities from damage by floods and erosion, but they are noncommercial and must be crossed off the national ledger insofar as producing lumber, ties, firewood, fence posts, and other forest products are concerned. And although there are 462 million acres of commercial forest land, after 300 years of pioneering and progress—and of forest exploitation—only about 215 million acres of it now bear trees of saw-timber sizes.

Yet with care and forethought there should be no excuse for a timber shortage of national proportions. There are, however, many localities and broad regions that for

years have been face to face with progressive forest depletion, many counties within which families and communities are suffering for lack of work which forest restoration might provide. And, although some owners have made progress in forest management, the majority of current operations on privately owned forest land are still geared to quick liquidation.

So there is need for a more adequate forest policy for the Nation. To use our remaining forest resources wisely and well, to create new wealth, and to help underwrite more stable and more prosperous communities, that policy should recognize:

1. That forest lands have values and render services far greater to 130 millions of people than are the value and services they render to the relatively few people who now own most of the best of them.

2. That all 630 million acres of forest land must be adequately protected against damage or destruction by fire, insects, diseases, and quick liquidation; and that its forest and other cover must be restored where necessary, and maintained.

3. That growing stock and productivity must be built up and maintained on the 462 million acres of commercial forest lands.

4. That interests of private owners who comply with the Nation's forest policy must be protected, but so must public interests inherent in all forest lands.

5. That there must be full and continuous use of all products, values, and services that forest lands and their resources can and do render locally, nationally, and through world-wide markets; and that the many products and byproducts of wood must be readily available to consumers generally.

6. That, as integral parts of a unified agricultural pattern, forest-land management and use must contribute fully and continuously to local as well as to national structures, and to social as well as economic ones.

To make this forest policy effective, a plan

of action is essential. Based on those human needs without which forest utilization is impossible and forest conservation meaningless, essentials of such a plan include (1) public (State and Federal) cooperation with private owners; (2) public regulation of forest lands; and (3) extension of public ownership and management.

Public cooperation has to do with forest lands in private ownership. Of all commercial forest lands these total the best three-fourths: 341 million acres. To increase the national wealth and contribute to income stability, owners must conform to the Nation's forest policy, but public responsibilities must also be recognized and redeemed. Hence the need for more public cooperation in such things as fire protection, credits adapted to forest industries, reestablishing and maintaining farm woodlands, and research.

Public regulation is needed to safeguard human and property values that transcend those of any one owner or group of owners. To accomplish this, forest productivity must be increased, and drain must be brought into relation with the power of the land to produce continuous forest crops. This will create new jobs and provide new wealth. Legislation already extended to oil, public utilities, banking, and old-age insurance affords precedents for Federal control of privately owned forest lands, but it also indicates needs and opportunities for the States to exercise their initiative, resourcefulness, and sovereignty.

Public ownership and management of forest lands are established policies. They apply to (1) community forests; (2) State forests; and (3) national forests. All these public properties are, in general, managed on a multiple-use basis.

Administered for nearly 40 years by the Forest Service, the national forests provide a living for almost a million people, and recreation for 30 millions each year. They are home and refuge for most of our remaining big game, and include some 70,000 miles of fishing streams, and more than 3,500 developed public campgrounds. They furnish forage for more than 6,800,000 head of livestock each year, help to prevent floods and erosion, and guard domestic water for 6 million city people. And they return to counties, through the States, more than a million dollars each year in lieu of taxes.

On the basis of a long-time program, analyses and checks indicate that in the public welfare approximately 48 million acres might well be acquired for community and State forests and 100 million acres for the national forest system.

# Illinois Farmers Like Farm-Plan Schools

■ "Plan your work and work your plan" may sound like just another platitude to the average farmer, but to more than 1,000 Illinois farmers the expression has been put into active practice as a step toward more efficient farming and better farm living.

It all came about as a result of a series of farm-planning schools held throughout Illinois recently under the direction of J. B. Cunningham, assistant professor of farm management extension, and H. C. M. Case, head of the department of agricultural economics, College of Agriculture, University of Illinois.

"A farm plan is to the farmer what the architect's specifications are to the building contractor," Professor Cunningham maintains. "It gives direction to the work that is to be done, contributes greatly to the convenience of the operator, and, when intelligently used, results in larger and more stable farm earnings, greater conservation of land and other resources, a better living for the farm family, a better heritage for future generations, and a production of farm products more closely adjusted to domestic and foreign demand."

## *Developing a Long-time Plan*

The purpose of the schools is to assist farmers in working out a long-time plan providing for six essential points. These points are: A cropping system which will give the maximum income and yet allow for fertility maintenance and the control of erosion; a livestock system adapted to the amounts and kinds of feeds produced and to the markets available; efficient use of available labor; power and machinery which will do the work with the least possible cost; an adequate volume of business; and a choice of enterprises which will fit together well to give a proper balance to the business as a whole.

In launching the farm-planning project, the Extension Service of the College of Agriculture, University of Illinois, held 68 all-day schools. One of these was with members of the State agricultural conservation committee and district AAA representatives; 3 were with head farmers of State institution farms, and the remaining 64 were county schools.

The county schools were held in 55 counties in conjunction with a soil-conservation and erosion-control project in which the departments of agronomy, agricultural economics, animal husbandry, and dairy husbandry are cooperating.

The meeting in De Kalb County, judged on the basis of completed plans, was one of the most successful of the series. Twenty-two young men all under 35 years of age were

present. Some of the young men were just starting to farm for themselves.

Ranking close to the De Kalb meeting in interest and results was the school held in McDonough County with 29 leaders present. What made the meeting unique was the fact that all 29 of the men were AAA community committeemen. These men were better qualified after the school to advise farmers relative to plans for complying with the AAA program, taking into consideration physical and economic conditions peculiar to a particular farm.

The district AAA representative was so well pleased with results of the McDonough County school that he requested one for each county in his district for later in the year.

More than 800 complete farm plans are known to have been worked out as a result of the 64 county meetings. Although some of these plans are not so complete as plans made by trained technicians, they are based on the farmer's own knowledge of practices and principles of good farm management and are, therefore, easy for him to follow.

Making out farm plans in many cases created demands for additional subject-matter information. For example, Irvin Shaw, Knox County, after attending a planning school, made a special trip to the College of Agriculture to talk with staff members about practices he would need to follow to make his plan most effective. Farm advisers have already scheduled 40 farm-planning schools for next year.

The three schools held for head farmers of institution farms were attended by managers of 22 farms comprising about 18,000 acres owned by the State of Illinois. The principal theme for discussion was land use in its relation to the production of food products needed to support the inmates of the institutions.

Each farmer or farm manager attending the 68 schools was provided with a copy of *Planning the Farm Business*, a mimeographed booklet published during the year by the department of agricultural economics. Containing suggestions and forms, the booklet was used to record the individual farm plans, thus making the task of planning much easier and more effective.

In addition to the use of the booklet in planning schools, it has been widely used by teachers of vocational agriculture in high schools throughout the State, by technicians of the Soil Conservation Service, and by other individuals and agencies concerned with making farm plans. Almost 9,000 copies of the booklet have been made available, including 5,000 copies for members of AAA community committeemen.

When asked just what procedure he followed at the schools, Cunningham replied that he did not have to do much talking except to answer questions. The farmers themselves were so interested in the idea that his greatest contribution was in answering questions as they arose throughout the period while the farmers were considering plans adapted to their own farms.

**Just starting out in farming, this group all under 35 years of age made the De Kalb County Farm Planning School one of the most successful.**



# Five Fundamental Questions Considered

County extension agents representing 48 States, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico, both men and women, recently gathered in Washington for their first Nation-wide conference. Committees were appointed to prepare a report on five fundamental problems which the whole conference discussed with the help of technical advisers from the Federal Government. These questions, with a brief summary of the answers worked out, are presented here. To give all county agents an opportunity to discuss these problems in the next few numbers of the REVIEW, the page, "My Point of View," will be devoted to letters on these questions. Contributions will be welcomed and used insofar as space will permit.

## **■ What kind of life should be made possible for farm families through efficient agricultural production in America?**

Farmers should still be able to enjoy independence in the sense of being the owners and operators of their farm enterprises. In former years these ambitions were almost always possibilities. In recent years absentee farm owners and farm corporations have interfered. Other things which have interfered are privately financed mortgage loans, low prices, increased operating expenses such as those incurred in combating insects, and the use of motor-driven implements and conveyances which supply no manures to soils.

County agricultural agents and advisers have always advocated soil-building practices and should take advantage of the impetus given to soil building and conservation by the agricultural conservation program to further demonstrate these fundamental practices as a means of maintaining the farmer's independence.

In this connection, further emphasis should be laid on the desirability of farm families producing as much of their home needs as is economically possible, such as food, feed, pasture, lumber, and fuel.

The democratic way to reduce surpluses is to so inform farmers of the advantages of controlled production that they will advocate such a program and vote for it. If such a program is fairly administered for the advantage of producers as a whole, it can be an aid in solving this problem.

This committee was of the opinion that a vast number of farmers do not understand the underlying reasons for these control measures. It felt that the AAA had not put sufficient effort into informing farmers of the working principles and of the ultimate value which will accrue to them by these plans to amend the law of supply and demand.

## *What does the general public want from the farming enterprise in America?*

The nonfarm general public is principally interested in an adequate supply and variety of food and fiber at reasonable prices and the assurance that agriculture will continue to be a buyer of goods and services offered for sale by other groups.

The conservation of natural resources is an obligation owed the public by the farmer. Soils should be so handled that they may be handed to posterity in as good or better condition than they were received by the present generation. The committee felt that conservation of human resources may be of even greater importance than the conservation of natural resources if we are to continue to have a virile, forward-looking people on our land. The farmer does have and should realize his obligation to society in these two important respects. However, if general economic conditions, as they affect the farmer, are in such a state that it is impossible for him to do the things necessary to conserve these resources, then the general public has a reciprocal obligation to assist in making this possible, because of the benefits which will accrue to society as a whole.

Inasmuch as cities do depend on agricultural sections to supply a vital part of their population and leadership, it is desirable that rural youth be provided with educational facilities which will give them a training comparable to that provided for city boys and girls.

## *What benefits do farmers and the public expect from research and educational institutions which they have set up in the common interest of agriculture?*

The public schools are expected to meet an expanding demand for specific knowledge, develop skills, give vocational training and

guidance, develop leadership, and implant social and ethical ideals designed to develop better citizens in our democracy.

The land-grant colleges are expected to teach the fundamentals of agriculture and home economics in accordance with present economic conditions and problems, to develop leaders to meet the present and future needs of agriculture, and to correlate their teaching efforts with those of other educational and research organizations.

The experiment stations and research institutions are expected to act as fact-finding organizations and to meet present and future problems which change with agricultural development.

The Extension Service is expected to bring the accumulated knowledge to farm families and to help them to interpret and apply it to their situations.

The Smith-Hughes vocational work is expected to teach agriculture and home economics as farm and home vocations and to develop farm leadership in the high schools of the Nation.

All of these activities in the aggregate are intended fundamentally to provide for a better farm life and a better relationship between the farmer and people not on farms.

## *What do the farmers and the public through legislative programs hope to accomplish?*

Farmers and the public, through legislative action, hope to accomplish a better balance between production and consumption by an improvement of the present economic system which will give to farm families a fair share of the national income for products produced efficiently, and which will assure the public an adequate food supply at a price reasonable under normal industrial conditions.

The problem of adjustment, however, is an economic problem, and economic problems cannot be completely or wholly solved satisfactorily through political organizations.

Better understanding through education, with financial and educational assistance through legislative action by the Federal Government, can be of assistance; but all groups of people, through education, must eventually recognize the necessity and importance of complete cooperation and must understand and participate in the solution brought about through cooperation.

The elimination of red tape and the multitudinous instructions that no two persons can interpret the same is essential if satisfaction is to be achieved. The varying elements of soil, climate, distances, markets, and nationalities make it imperative that more authority be given the local administrators to meet

individual problems and to determine good farm-management actions for areas that have certain unusual problems.

In the formulation of action programs for agriculture, it should be kept in mind that the need for coordination from a national, State, and local standpoint is imperative to prevent duplication of efforts and to bring about a more efficient use of public money.

A study should be made of interstate and international trade barriers with the hope of establishing national and State policies which will serve the best interests of the majority of our people.

*What part can the Extension Service play in serving the best interests of farm people and the general welfare in relation to the foregoing problems?*

This committee recommended that the agricultural extension services of the several States and Territories promote a more aggressive approach to the consideration of the best interests of farm people and the general welfare of the whole country, because the need for a thorough analysis and continued study of these problems by both urban and rural people from a local, State, and national point of view is imperative.

The problems discussed at the conference were classified as, first, the disposal of goods, including relationships between urban and rural people, foreign relationships, stabilizing of prices, corporation and labor monopolies, and interstate relationships. Second, adjustment to conditions, including social and technological relationships, making the best use of the enabling acts, elimination of submarginal farms, and the recognition of differences in problems of large-scale, and family-size farms. Third, the factors which have to do with efficiency, such as conservation of human and natural resources, land use, positive health, best use of the materials at hand in technical advancement, and marketing.

Lastly, the committee set down the advantages of developing a philosophy of farm life, viewing farming as a way of life, increasing farm ownership, maintaining family sized farms, accepting all responsibility of leadership, and developing cultural and recreational facilities.

To bring about the solution of these problems, the committee suggested such means of approach as surveys, discussions, demonstrations, publicity, visual aids and leadership training.

■ The University of Wisconsin has announced a special 3-week summer school for county agricultural agents and teachers of vocational agriculture to be held June 26 to July 15. Courses will be offered in the departments of animal and dairy husbandry, agricultural education, and agronomy.

# Speaking of Population Trends

**O. E. BAKER, Senior Agricultural Economist,  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics**

■ The great uncertainty in the population prospect for the next decade or two is not the number of people in the Nation but their residence. Will half the rural youth migrate to the cities, as occurred during the decade preceding the economic depression, or will most of them be backed up on farms and in villages, as during the past decade? Will half the national increase in population take place in the South, where the excess of births over deaths during 1930-34 was about equal to that in all the rest of the Nation, or will most of the increase occur in the cities north of the Ohio and Potomac Rivers and east of the Mississippi River, as occurred during 1920-29?

It is clear that economic depressions have a profound effect upon the residence of the people and that the granting of unemployment and other forms of relief tends to perpetuate the geographic distribution of population developed during a depression. Regional planning must, therefore, first of all, assume a future condition of prosperity, or of depression, or of recurring periods of prosperity alternating with depression.

## Planning for Youth Migration

If persistent prosperity is assumed, associated with expanding urban employment for rural youth, a resumption of the predepression migration of youth from most States, especially from the South, should be planned for, with a trend toward contraction in agricultural use of land in the areas of hilly surface or poor soils and toward mechanization and larger farms in areas of level land and richer soils. Such migration would properly be associated with a submarginal-land purchase program to accelerate migration, relieve distress, and reduce the cost of providing public services in poor-land areas. Urban housing programs and other provisions for accommodating the youth in the cities should also be planned.

But, as 10 adults in our cities today are rearing only about 7 children, whereas in the farm population 10 adults are rearing about 14 children, and as rural youth who move to the cities soon take on urban ideals and attitudes, it seems almost certain that such migration from the farms would hasten the decline in the national population and in the demand for farm products, assuming a stationary per capita consumption and no material increase in exports. Moreover, because of the cost to the farming people of feeding, clothing and educating these youths who leave the farms, and the accumulation

of mortgage debt incident to paying to the heirs who live in the cities their share of the estate, this migration promotes the development of urban vortices of wealth as well as of life.

But, if depressed economic conditions persist and the youth are backed up on farms, especially in the poorer agricultural regions where the birth rate is highest, there will be a rapid increase in farm population, associated presumably with a decreasing production per worker, and, except for the consumption of products produced on the farm, probably a declining "standard of living"—fewer autos and tractors and more horses, less commercial and more indigenous recreation. Should no net migration from farms occur during the next 20 years, the farm population 18 to 64 years of age (productive age) will increase by about 7,500,000, or by 40 percent, assuming that there will be no war, famine, or pestilence. The farmers of the Nation face a dilemma.

If alternating periods of prosperity and depression recur, there should result, if the depressions are severe, alternating directions in rural-urban migration. Fluctuating prices of farm products associated with a more or less stationary mortgage debt will tend toward periods of speculation in farm land, alternating with periods of foreclosure, and a general trend toward loss of land ownership by farm operators. This has been the trend in the United States as a whole for fully 50 years.

One other implication in the population trends should be considered. The Nation is passing from a period of rapid increase of population, a period associated with the agricultural conquest of a virgin continent and the growth of enormous cities—in brief, from an epoch of expansion, exploitation, and speculation into a new epoch which seems likely to be characterized by search for economic security and stability. There will be twice as many old people 25 to 30 years hence and, perhaps, only half as many youth as today. Deaths already exceed births in many cities. Unemployment is extensive and persistent.

All these conditions indicate the need of vision in agricultural planning, also a realization that the family is the foundation of the Nation and that the land is the foundation of the family. Can the family maintain sufficient integrity under urban conditions to reproduce the race, educate the children, and transmit culture from generation to generation; or is the family an institution that flourishes only in an agricultural civilization?

# Building Rural Leadership

JOHN R. HUTCHESON, Director, Virginia

When the Smith-Lever Act was passed in 1914, demonstration work was being carried on with farm men and boys in nearly half of the counties of Virginia and with farm women and girls in approximately a fourth of the hundred counties. At that time, headquarters for the work were moved from Burkeville to the State Agricultural College at Blacksburg; and a director of extension work was appointed. However, the value of the demonstration idea, on which the work had been built, was not lost; and those in charge of extension work have adhered through the years to the philosophy of Dr. Seaman A. Knapp and the other early pioneers who believed that "what a man hears he often forgets, but what he sees and does usually stays with him."

It is exceedingly difficult for anyone to accurately evaluate the contribution of any agency to an educational program, and in mentioning briefly some developments in agriculture in Virginia during the past 25 years I make no claim that the Extension Service is exclusively responsible for such developments. The accomplishments are the results of cooperative action on the part of all institutions and agencies working with farm people.

During the past 25 years the acreage planted to alfalfa has increased from less than 5,000 to more than 75,000, the acreage of lespedeza from less than 1,000 to nearly a quarter of a million, and the total acreage of all hay crops from 840,000 to more than a million. During this same period the use of lime for agricultural purposes has increased from less than 100,000 tons annually to more than 500,000 tons, and the use of superphosphates as top dressing for pastures from less than 1,000 tons to more than 50,000 tons annually.

Crop estimate figures for the 5-year periods, 1909-13 and 1934-38, indicate that average yields per acre for potatoes have increased from 102 to 120 bushels; for tobacco, from 685 to 805 pounds; for cotton, from 259 to 276 pounds; and for peanuts, from 709 to 1,062 pounds. During this same period the number of milk cows in Virginia has increased from 335,000 to 413,000, and the average production per cow has increased from approximately 2,700 pounds to nearly 3,500 pounds per year. The number of

chickens on Virginia farms has increased from less than 3 million in 1910 to an average of more than 6 million during the past 5 years, and the total annual value of all poultry products has more than doubled.

It is exceedingly difficult to get accurate statistics regarding improvement in living standards. However, we know that during the past quarter of a century there has been rapid improvement in the farm homes of this State. As an example, when extension work began, less than 10,000 rural homes in Virginia had the advantage of electricity, whereas the best figures obtainable for 1938 indicate that approximately 70,000 rural farm homes are now electrified. Reports of home demonstration club members for the past 5 years indicate that 18,000 farm homes have been adequately screened; 6,000 have installed running water; 12,000 made kitchen improvements, and 68,000 made some other home improvement as the result of the work of extension agents.

Organized educational programs have been carried on with 21,000 farm women, 40,000 4-H Club members, and at least 100,000 adult farmers. It is, of course, immediately apparent that the small force of extension workers employed in this State cannot alone work effectively with such large groups; but, fortunately, extension agents in Virginia have had the active assistance of more than 11,000 voluntary local leaders during recent years. These local leaders not only carry on demonstrations themselves but assist in developing programs, holding meetings, and presenting these programs to other farm people.

It was evident early in the history of extension work that many of the problems could not be met by individual effort, so extension agents began to help farmers to organize for group study and group action. During the last 20 years many cooperative buying and selling associations have been organized. Some of these associations have failed, but during this period the amount of cooperative business done by Virginia farmers has increased more than 300 percent; and most of the associations now in operation are on a sound financial basis and are being operated economically and efficiently.

During this same period, extension agents helped farm men and women in this State to

set up a number of other organizations which have contributed materially to the improvement of rural life. The Virginia Crop Improvement Association, the State Poultry Federation, the Virginia State Grange, the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, the Agricultural Conference Board, and the Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs are examples of organizations which have received effective help from extension agents.

When farm leaders came to realize that, even with efficient production and efficient marketing, agriculture could not sell in a free, uncontrolled market and buy in a closed, controlled market, they demanded that the Government either withdraw special privileges to other groups or give farmers equal privileges. The Agricultural Adjustment Administration was the answer to this demand. Virginia extension agents until recently have borne the brunt not only of explaining the triple-A program to farmers but of administering it in the counties. They have also cooperated actively with the Soil Conservation Service, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Farm Security Administration, the Rural Electrification Administration, and the Farm Credit Administration in efforts to bring about improved living standards among rural people. Each of these agencies has undoubtedly made mistakes, and extension agents have received considerable criticism on account of such mistakes. However, 20 years' service as director of extension in Virginia has convinced me that Virginia farmers have higher regard for the extension agent who will help them with their programs, even though such programs are not perfect, than for the agent who sits back and says that he will have nothing to do with such programs because they are not 100 percent sound.

## Pest Control

Ranchmen, farmers, and townspeople killed more than 30,000 jack rabbits that otherwise would have eaten valuable pasture grass and crops in Elbert County, Colo., last winter. Forty-nine tons of rabbit meat obtained in the organized campaign were sold to the Rocky Mountain National Fur Growers' Association in Denver as food for foxes. Hunters were paid 5 cents each for the rabbits. Twenty-five thousand skins of rabbits were sold to various fur dealers by the county pest-control committee with the help of County Extension Agent Ben R. Ferguson.

Mr. Ferguson estimates that the eradication of 30,000 rabbits from the county resulted in saving grass and crops worth \$1,200 to farmers and stockmen in the county. That many rabbits would have eaten as much grass, he says, as 1,000 head of cattle. The campaign furnished work for three to six men skinning rabbits and bailing hides during the winter months. In addition, the county now has equipment for continuing the pest-control program next winter.

# Farmers Practice What Agents Preach

**ROSALIND A. REDFEARN, Home Demonstration Agent**

**JAMES W. CAMERON, County Agricultural Agent  
Anson County, N. C.**



Mrs. Rosalind Redfearn.

■ After working in the same county for more than 25 years, there is real satisfaction in seeing the results of our extension teaching develop into a growing enterprise. A good example is the turkey production of Anson County, which has become a going business. All in all, it has been a profitable undertaking for the farmers, who have been selling from 6,000 to 8,000 turkeys annually for several years. Turkeys have helped to pay for farm buildings, home improvements, taxes, and educational expenditures. We have kept in close touch with the turkey breeders and have tried to assist them in the management and marketing of their flocks.

The present-day methods used in the care and management of large flocks of purebred turkeys have resulted in greater profits than 25 years ago when a few small flocks of various colors and sizes sold for 50 cents to a dollar on a limited local market. During these early extension days, we encouraged the farmers to ship a few live turkeys to outside markets which paid better prices. These higher prices stimulated greater interest in turkey raising, and in a short while we found growers interested in improving their flocks by introducing purebred stock.

Assisted by the extension poultry specialist, we started to hold poultry schools in various sections of the county. Methods in care, feeding, housing, and general management were studied, and our producers soon learned that by changing their system of handling the birds the cost of production would be greatly decreased and that a much larger percentage of the young turkeys would be grown to maturity. In the beginning, it was quite a problem to get our producers to dry-pick their turkeys. We gave demonstrations in killing and dry-picking, and the farmers

Working together as county agents for more than a quarter of a century, Mr. Cameron and Mrs. Redfearn have spent their entire extension careers in Anson County, N. C. Mr. Cameron started his work in the county in November 1911, and Mrs. Redfearn has been home demonstration agent there since March 1913.

could see, by comparison, the superiority of a dry-picked bird over a hard, scalded one.

In the early days the eggs were set under the turkey hen, and, when they were hatched, the hen was either confined in a small coop or was allowed to carry the little turkeys over whatever range she could find. This method often resulted in a very low percentage of the young turkeys ever reaching maturity. Paying \$3 per dozen for purebred eggs or \$5 for a purebred tom was considered by many as both extravagant and unnecessary.

Today, during the laying season, the hens are kept in yards provided with nests, and the eggs are kept at a moderate temperature until ready to set. The majority of turkey eggs are hatched under large chicken hens and in incubators. This allows the turkey hens to lay over a longer period. When the eggs are hatched, the young turkeys are put into well-ventilated brooder houses with wire floors. The houses are heated with brick brooders which burn wood from the farm. A small porch with a wire floor is built on the sunny side where the young birds can exercise in the sunshine. We have always emphasized the importance of sanitation, fresh water, and feedings at regular intervals of well-balanced mash, green feed, and sour milk.

By growing only one variety of turkeys, we have found that a better grade and more uniform quality is assured when turkeys are assembled from so many different growers. Today all our turkeys are of the Mammoth



J. W. Cameron.

Bronze variety, with which our breeders have been successful. In White Store Township, within a radius of 3 miles, from 2,000 to 3,000 fine birds, all of one breed and type, are raised. We strive to maintain a high standard by selling only nice, fat, well-developed, dry-picked turkeys in good condition, packed and shipped according to the needs of our customers. Orders may consist of one turkey to a private customer by parcel post, or a barrel by express, or a cooperative shipment of 500 to 1,000 birds by truck. Our farmers sell the majority of their turkeys cooperatively, and the shipments are made on a county-wide basis. The birds are brought to a central point where they are graded, weighed, and loaded. On selling days the farmers and their wives come to town where they learn to know the other producers and have a profitable experience in comparing their turkeys with those of the other breeders. The largest orders are filled at Thanksgiving and Christmas; but, with the growing popularity of turkey meat as a food, the season for shipment now extends throughout the year. Last June we shipped hens soon after the breeding season was over. One shipment amounted to nearly \$600.

## Change in Agents' Reports

Owing to the growing importance of soil conservation activities as a definite part of the extension program in practically every State, provision has been made in the 1939 combined annual report form of county extension workers to consider soil conservation as a regular extension project rather than as a part of the supplemental material. Essentially in all other respects, the county report form will be identical with that used in 1938.

# Idaho County Praises Hot School-Lunch

■ A hot lunch in most of the schools of Clearwater County, Idaho, was made possible last fall by the cooperative effort of practically every individual and organization in the county. The results have been so spectacular during the first year that teachers, parents, welfare workers, and, above all, the children themselves are strong for its continuation. Clearwater is one of the first counties in the State to maintain a satisfactory hot-lunch and nutrition program in the majority of its schools, and extension agents have taken an active part in this achievement.

For some time Mrs. Vera Rankin, Clearwater County superintendent of schools, had been keenly interested in supplying hot lunches in all schools of the county and working out a broad nutrition program for rural school children. She took her problem to George W. Johnson, county agricultural agent, for suggestions. Mr. Johnson passed it along to Hattie Abbott, north central district home demonstration agent. The next time Miss Abbott visited Clearwater County she conferred with Mrs. Rankin, with teachers, and with the school board.

The proposal met with wide approval. Eleanor Ferguson, county health nurse; Jack Denning, county welfare administrator; home economics clubs; and the parent-teacher organizations rallied to support the movement. Many people volunteered to contribute milk for the noon lunches. Teachers volunteered to supervise the preparation of a hot dish at noon. Mr. Denning made arrangements so that some soups and fruits could come from the county's quota from the Surplus Commodities Corporation. Among adults, teachers, and others there was a united and determined front in behalf of the hot-lunch and nutrition idea propounded by Mrs. Rankin.

All that remained then was to arouse within the minds of the pupils an appreciation of the differences between a balanced and healthful lunch and mere food. Here is where white rats entered the picture.

"It occurred to us that a demonstration using rats would bring before the school children the difference between just plain food and an adequate ration," relates County Agent Johnson. "The cooperation of Dr. Ella Woods, home economist at the university agricultural experiment station, was solicited, and she agreed very heartily to feed one rat on foods that would represent those consumed by most of the people or children in the rural areas and another on an adequate ration to show the beneficial results of a proper diet.

"She started out with two young male rats of the same age, weighing exactly the same,



Time for hot soup in the District 40 school, one of the 25 Clearwater County schools that have adopted the hot lunch program.

feeding one on the following food: white flour, 50 percent; potatoes, 20 percent; beans, 20 percent; lard, 6 percent; and lean beef, 4 percent. The other rat received the following: two-thirds of the ration given the first rat, plus one-third of dry whole milk. This amount of milk is equivalent to 1 quart of milk a day in the diet of a child 8 to 10 years old. These rats were fed for 6 weeks and then sent to Clearwater County."

With each rat in a cage, Mrs. Rankin and the county agent started on a school-to-school tour. All the youngsters could see the great difference in the rats. The one getting the proper diet appeared healthy and smooth-haired, whereas the other was shaggy, thin, and nervous. The one getting the deficient diet almost died before the demonstration was over, and it was necessary to give him a few injections to keep him alive. At every showing of the rats an explanation was given of the foods they had been fed. The pupils were quick to ask questions, which gave the speakers an opportunity to stress the importance of milk and fresh fruits and vegetables in the diet. The demonstration was so successful in the schools that the county health nurse showed the rats before various other groups. About 1,200 school children were reached by the exhibit.

The two rats laid the foundation for the hot-lunch and nutrition program. Of the 35 schools in the county, 24 instituted the hot lunch, supplying a hot dish along with the student's regular lunch; and usually, fruit or fruit juices, which are supplied by the

Surplus Commodities Corporation are also provided.

Many months have passed since County Agent Johnson and Mrs. Rankin toured the county with the white rats. Here is the county agent's appraisal of the results: "Looking over those youngsters at the rural schools today and comparing their general health with what I saw when we were taking the rats around on the demonstration, gives one the feeling of great satisfaction to know that so much change could be made by such a program. Then, to read the reports of the teachers proves that it has been worth while. I think it is something that is here to stay."

■ As part of its community-beautification program, the Herron-Henderson Home Demonstration Club, Baxter County, Ark., has supplied flower seeds to each of the 4-H Club members in its community with the understanding that the 4-H'ers will plant the seeds to beautify their homes and the highway that runs through the community, according to Neva Hill, home demonstration agent.

In addition, they are requested to transplant one native shrub, such as dogwood or redbud, to their homesteads.

The Herron-Henderson Club is an entry in the 5-year landscaping program. It held its annual flower show in June, at which time outstanding beautification projects were rewarded. A prize was given to the 4-H member with the best arrangement of flowers.

# Southern Negroes Face Their Problems

J. B. PIERCE, Field Agent, Negro Work

■ Something to eat, something to wear, somewhere to stay, and the education of his children are the most outstanding problems of the Negro farmer in the South.

The Extension Service, through its workers, has always emphasized the live-at-home program for the Negro farmer and assisted him in meeting his needs. Work for the whole family, parents and children, is included in this program.

In recent years, many new government agencies have come into the picture to help farm people solve their problems, and the Negro farmer is taking an active part in these agencies. I quote from Assistant Director Reuben Brigham's address, "We Go Forward," which was delivered at two southern regional extension conferences. "I think that, as extension workers, we should consider our situation in a straightforward, realistic manner. The time has arrived when we should seriously and vigorously devote our energies and best thought to building for the longer future. In doing this, our immediate concern is effective coordination. We must have a coordinated program to work toward. A vehicle which insures better coordination and which brings farmer thinking to bear upon local, State, and national problems has been provided in the land use planning activity." Better land use put into practice will go a long way toward making it possible for the Negro farm family to supply its essential needs. The outlook for this attainment in a larger measure in the future is most promising.

## Negroes Conserve Their Soil

In Tennessee, soil conservation is practiced in some form by most of the 15,000 Negro farmers in the 10 counties having negro extension agents. Lespedeza, rye, summer legumes, liming for clover and alfalfa, terracing, contour cultivation, crop rotation, and reforesting mostly with black locust are the more common practices used by these farmers in their soil-conservation work.

During the past 3 years in Hertford County, N. C., more and better livestock has been emphasized in the extension program, and, as a result, the Negro farmers have added the following animals to their livestock: 16 purebred bulls, 28 purebred cows, 8 purebred heifers, 13 high-grade cows, and 11 high-grade heifers; 42 purebred boars, 61 purebred gilts, and 19 high-grade gilts; and 26,051 purebred day-old chicks. They have built 6 bull pens, 11 hog houses, 28 self-feeders, 32 modern brooder houses, and 57 modern laying houses.

In Arkansas during the 1938 better-homes campaign, the Negro extension workers held county meetings of the community chairmen to give them instructions. At these leader meetings, demonstrations were given in refinishing furniture, making simple furniture, and in kitchen and bedroom improvement. Ten county home demonstration councils devoted one meeting each to discussions and demonstrations in home improvement. House plans were furnished on request by the State Extension Service. Two hundred and ninety-four home demonstration clubs participated in the campaign. Outstanding among the many improvements made, as a result of the campaign, was the building of 104 new houses.

## Negro 4-H Clubs Flourish

Through 4-H Club work, rural youth have a chance to acquire the fundamental principles of citizenship. The club members, with the assistance of the extension agents and local leaders, study the needs of their families and communities and plan activities that will help to supply some of these needs. Each year there is a steady growth noted in the enrollment of Negro boys and girls in 4-H Clubs, and their completion of work is also kept at a high level. In South Carolina last year, 3,683 4-H Club members were enrolled, and 183 community clubs were organized. Of the 3,762 demonstrations that were carried, 2,622 were completed. The completed demonstrations had a value in farm products of \$59,625, and returned a profit of \$28,152 to the club members. Eleven tours for 4-H Club members were conducted with an attendance of 205 members, and 9 achievement days were held with 2,602 attending. The State 4-H camp at Columbia was conducted from June 14 through August 25 with club members and leaders coming from every county having a Negro agent. One wildlife-conservation camp was held at the State 4-H camp with 66 club members and 18 leaders attending.

In the 37 counties having Negro extension workers in Virginia, the farmers are organized into community clubs, county advisory boards, and a State advisory board. They conduct every year a community improvement program, awarding prizes for the following achievements by the farm families: Own your farm; join your community club; be self-supporting; paint your home; have a sanitary toilet; and place your boys and girls in 4-H Club work. These farm organizations offer prizes to the 10 communities that make the largest number of improvements annually.

In 1937, 70 communities in 37 Virginia counties entered the improvement program.

In these 70 communities, there were 2,682 families. Of this number, 2,002 owned their farms, and 34 of those farms were bought that year. Of these farm families, 1,663 are members of their community clubs, 231 of them having joined that year. Of the 2,682 families, 2,551 were self-supporting, and 92 were taken off relief during the year. Seven hundred and sixty-eight of the homes are painted, 109 having been painted during the year. Homes having sanitary toilets totaled 1,662, and 380 of these sanitary toilets were built during the year. Of the 3,435 boys and girls of 4-H Club age, 2,004 were members of the 4-H Clubs; 1,937 completed their 4-H Club projects; and 3,143 attended school.

A complete record is kept of each family in the 70 organized communities taking part in the improvement work for the year. Such a record aids the community club in planning its program of work to meet the real needs of the farm families. This kind of community improvement work has been carried on by the farmers themselves, under the guidance of the Extension Service, since 1926.

Every organized community in the counties having Negro extension workers is invited to take part in this special community improvement work, and each year the number of communities taking part increases.

The above examples of accomplishments bearing upon the regional problems of the Negro farmer in the South are typical of the extension program that is helping him to solve his problems.

## North Carolina Conveniences

Nearly 2,000 farm homes in North Carolina have water systems today, whereas they were in the "bucket and outdoor pump" brigade a year ago. To be exact, 1,885 home water systems were installed in 78 counties during 1938, reports Ruth Current, State home agent of the Extension Service.

These 1,885 systems ranged from the simplest, a pitcher pump bringing running water to the back porch or kitchen and costing only \$15, to the more elaborate systems piping hot and cold water to the home, yard, barn, and orchard at a cost of several hundred dollars.

The Pamlico County extension agents, Sophie Lee Clark and A. T. Jackson, used this phase of agricultural engineering as a joint program for men and women in 1938, holding one leaders' school at which a simple water system was demonstrated. As a result, 14 water systems were installed in that one county, and one bathroom was equipped.

# Who's Who Among the First Agents

In casual retrospect, we present five agents who have served extension objectives continuously for a quarter century.



A. F. MacDougall.

■ Allister F. MacDougall is the only extension worker in Massachusetts with a continuous 25-year record. Mr. MacDougall began his extension career immediately on graduation from Massachusetts State College in June 1913. His first job was driving a demonstration truck through the rural areas of the State. With the cooperation of the grange and the farmers' clubs and with the ministers of rural churches, he put on demonstrations of apple spraying, grading and packing, pruning, and livestock judging. He also gave talks on feeding livestock in connection with feed exhibits, showed how to test milk for butterfat, provided a lime-testing service, and distributed farm bulletins. He spent his nights in rural farmhouses, and many are the tales he can spin of rural hospitality in those early days.

In 1915 Mr. MacDougall organized the Hampshire County Farm Bureau and acted as its first county agent. Shortly after the work began, he added 4-H Club and home economics extension work and also hired the first girls' club agent in Massachusetts.

Since 1923 Mr. MacDougall has been manager of the Middlesex County Extension Service and has the largest staff of county extension workers in the United States. The county has the distinction of having 5 4-H Club agents and an annual enrollment of approximately 5,000 boys and girls. The county backs up the Extension Service to such an extent that nine-tenths of the budget comes directly from the county appropriation. The county also has the honor of constructing its own office building, adapted to its particular needs and located in the geographical center of the county in the rural town of Concord, Mass., where it is readily accessible to the entire county. Middlesex County has nearly a million inhabitants and is right next door to Boston, the home of another million people.

This county is one of the leading areas in the United States in the production of baby chicks and eggs, having started in early to clean up pullorum disease and to build a big business on the basis of disease-free stock.

The fruit section of the county, known as the Nashoba Fruit Belt, has been developed in such a way that the area is one of the best-known fruit sections in the East.



Mrs. Edna Trigg.

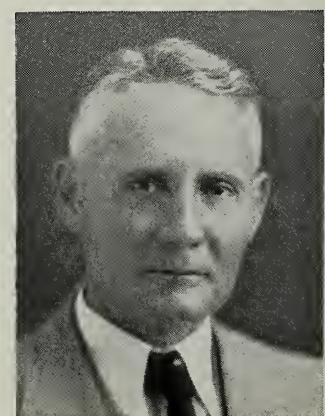
■ Mrs. Edna W. Trigg, home demonstration agent emeritus, Denton County, Tex., has been in extension work since 1912. From 1912 to 1915, she worked during the summer months as "county collaborator" in her native Milam County. There it was that, in August 1912, she staged the first girls' tomato club exhibit in Texas. Two thousand people attended, including a personal representative of the Governor. The Milam County Commissioners' Court decided to stop the work in 1915, but Mrs. Trigg refused to quit. She organized a farm women's council and conducted her work until late in June when the Childress Chamber of Commerce called her to carry on canning demonstrations in July and August. In 1916 she was given a permanent appointment as county home demonstration agent in Denton County. She served in that capacity until December 31, 1937. As early as 1917 Mrs. Trigg began obtaining college scholarships for her 4-H Club girls. She has helped many to get a college education, and some of them are home demonstration agents now. More than 3,600 girls have been in her clubs. Mrs. Trigg has emphasized the live-at-home program during all her service. She supervised the building of some of the first 4-H pantries. Results of Mrs. Trigg's work can be seen from the highways and byways of Denton County.

As home demonstration agent emeritus, Mrs. Trigg is writing a history of her work as home demonstration agent.



Elbert Gentry.

■ Elbert Gentry is county agent in Smith County, Tex. His face and personality have been familiar at many farmers' meetings in his county, in the district, and in other places in Texas for a good many years. His personal appearance almost takes on that of a United States Senator. He is a fluent speaker and ably represents his profession and clientele. His ability to recall from memory a great many facts and figures without even referring to notes is amazing. He is regarded as almost a walking encyclopedia on agricultural information that pertains to Smith County. He is still going strong in one of the largest east-Texas counties of nearly 7,000 farmers with an agriculture that varies from the rose industry to the development of permanent pastures on the hills and in the valleys of east Texas. He is a native Texan and was appointed as county agent in Smith County in 1905. During his long career he has also served in the Georgia Extension Service and in the United States Department of Agriculture.



R. H. Stewart.

■ Robert H. Stewart, agricultural agent for Box Elder County, Utah, celebrated his twenty-sixth anniversary in extension service work June 15. Mr. Stewart was on the

grounds when Extension was born, christened, and blessed. He watched the organization grow through early childhood, suffered with it during periods of growing pains in the adolescent stages, and has carried on throughout adulthood.

County Agent Stewart was appointed to serve in Carbon and Emery Counties on June 15, 1913. He was transferred to Box Elder County on December 1, 1916, and has remained there since that time.

"Two of the first real jobs started in Box Elder County were grain-variety and dairy-cattle surveys," relates Mr. Stewart. "I wished to learn of the foundation on which we had to build. Other problems of major importance which we have attacked in our county are: The establishment of 4-H Club work; control of rodents and noxious weeds; landscape gardening of both public and private grounds, and including the first rural recreational reserve in the United States; building up the poultry business from "scratch" to one that returns nearly 1 million dollars a year; establishment of two co-operative grading and marketing plants; and the adoption of improved orchard practices.

"One thing, especially, has had its influence in keeping me in the field of extension: I love the work."



T. A. Bowen.

■ T. A. Bowen, entered extension work as agent in Pickens County, S. C., September 12, 1912. At that time he was known as "farm demonstrator" and traveled over the county via horseback and horse and buggy. He has served as county agent continuously since entering extension work.

He has done outstanding work in 4-H Club work. Experience taught him that the easiest way to reach farmers was through their boys and girls in club work and getting them to follow improved practices in farming. In 1925, Pickens County had the largest enrollment in 4-H Clubs of any county in the State. In 1927, Pickens sent a club boy and girl to the first national club camp in Washington. A 4-H Club camp was built at Rocky Bottom in Pickens County in 1925, and it is now free from debt and fully equipped and furnished as a recreational center.

One hundred percent cooperation is being received from Pickens County people and various organizations, including the county legislative delegation. Work is going forward now on the county agricultural building.

## Honoring a Lover of the Soil

Jacob Goodale Lipman, honored by scientists in all parts of the world for the magnitude and significance of his work in the realm of soils, is mourned by thousands of New Jersey farmers as one of the stanchest friends they have ever known. Dean of the New Jersey College of Agriculture and director of the State agricultural experiment station, his passing on April 19 at the age of 64 brought to an untimely end one of the most brilliant and effective careers in the history of modern agriculture.

From the time he was a small boy, watching heavily laden cargoes wend their way across the Steppes of his native Russia, Jacob Lipman was fascinated by the mysteries and wonder of the soil and all that it brought forth. His quest for knowledge of this soil was the driving urge dominating his research as a student in later years, after he had come to this country; his work as first president of the International Society of Soil Science; his service as a delegate to the International Institute of Agriculture in Rome; his survey of the soils of the United States; and his contributions to the studies of the National Resources Board.

Dr. Lipman's name is synonymous with all that has spelled a quarter of a century of progress in the field of soil science. A student all his life, he never overlooked the importance of education in making that progress possible. He constantly expanded the scope of the institutions of which he was an administrator, and was tireless in his efforts to make the results of their scientific research practical for the great army of farmers whom they serve. He established the Cook-Voorhees Foundation in Soil Science with a \$1,250 prize awarded him by the Chilean Nitrate of Soda Educational Bureau for developing systems of soil management here and in foreign lands; and his \$5,000 personal library of scientific and technical books he donated to the Rutgers University library in order that other truth-seeking students might enlarge their vision as he had enlarged his.

"Agricultural science and education throughout the world suffer a heavy loss in the death of Dean Lipman." Thus Secretary Wallace pays tribute to a great man. He speaks for lovers of the soil the world over.

■ During the past 2 years the Pennsylvania Extension Service has supervised the planning of approximately 200 acres of contour orchards in nine counties to demonstrate the benefits of contour planting.

## Improving Illinois Herds

"Illinois reports a new peak in dairy herd-improvement association work with the organization of the Stephenson County No. 4 Association," says J. G. Cash, Illinois dairy extension specialist.

There are now 74 associations in operation in the State keeping complete feed costs and production records on approximately 1,700 dairy herds as a step in more profitable dairying.

Stephenson County is the second county to have four associations in operation. That county has 110 herds on test with records being kept on 2,000 dairy cows.

Ranking ahead of Stephenson County in number of associations is McHenry County, which now has five groups functioning. The first county in which an association was organized, McHenry County, holds the record of being the first county in the State to have five groups of dairymen keeping production records.

For more than a quarter of a century, the Extension Service has sponsored dairy herd-improvement association activities in an effort to encourage better management, feeding, breeding, and care of dairy herds as a step toward more efficient and more profitable dairy production.

Forging ahead with dairy herd-improvement associations are cooperative breeding groups, with 50 such associations now organized and functioning in the State. Members of these associations are also members of dairy herd-improvement associations. They own, cooperatively, carefully selected bulls that are moved from one member's farm to that of another member each year. The plan enables members to use the bulls sparingly until proved and to have them still in operation when their breeding value is known.

## ON THE CALENDAR

Annual Meeting, The American Association of Agricultural College Editors, Purdue University, La Fayette, Ind., July 24-27.  
Seventh World Poultry Congress, Public Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio, July 28-August 7.  
American Dietetics Association, Los Angeles, Calif., August 27-31.

American Country Life Association Conference at Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa., August 30-September 2.

Twenty-third Annual Eastern States Exposition, Springfield, Mass., September 17-23.

National Dairy Show, San Francisco, Calif., October 21-30.

Fifty-third Annual Convention of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, Washington, D. C., November 14-16.

Convention of National Grange, Peoria, Ill., November 20-25.

# County Shifts from Timber to Livestock

**HOLLIS PARROTT, Agricultural Agent, Pickett County, Tenn.**

The agricultural conservation program has had a far-reaching effect on the lives of the 5,000 Pickett County inhabitants. They now realize that they can no longer depend on their depleted timber resources for a living but must focus their attention on a better-balanced and more scientific farming program. The farmers have come to know that they must conserve and improve their soil and improve the quality of their livestock.

When the first county agent started working in Pickett County about 10 years ago, little was known of the conservation of soil, liming, terracing, growing alfalfa, raising improved livestock, and many other things that mean a sound and permanent agriculture and the development of rural community life. About all our farmers knew was to put the best land in corn, and many of them still followed the old custom of "stripping" fodder for winter roughage. The growing of anything more than redtop or millet for hay was more of an incident than a practice. As to livestock, the quality was poor. The cattle were mixed, mostly crosses between the home milk cow and an inferior bull. Herefords and Shorthorns were practically unknown. A few farmers had some good Aberdeen Angus cattle.

The main reason for the slow development of beef cattle in Pickett County was owing to the range conditions of this part of Tennessee. Until the last few years, Pickett County and adjoining territory had open range for livestock. Bulls of very inferior quality could be seen running at large; and, as a result, the quality of the offspring was declining rather than improving.

These factors were also applicable to the sheep and swine industries. Dogs were a problem in the county. Flocks of sheep were destroyed in one night by roving mongrels and hounds owned by fox hunters. The result was that many farmers stopped raising sheep, and the 1935 census showed a decline in sheep from 5,000 to 935 head. In the meantime, the State legislature passed a temporary dog law which provided for a tax on dogs, and a no-fence law which aided very much in improving the quality of sheep and beef cattle.

In the spring of 1938 we made a survey of purebred sires in the county and found, to our astonishment, only 2 registered bulls and fewer than 10 registered rams. Something had to be done if we were to make progress, and this was a good time to start. A bull sale was to be held in Knoxville, Tenn., on March 29, so we called a meeting in each

community of the county and took up with the farmers the bull situation, discussing the need and what it would mean to the farmers of Pickett County. At each meeting the question of financing the undertaking had to be considered. As a result, we organized three cooperatives; and, in addition, five individual farmers agreed to buy bulls. These farmers and I attended the Knoxville sale and brought back to the county eight registered bulls (four Herefords and 4 Aberdeen Angus) and five registered heifers.

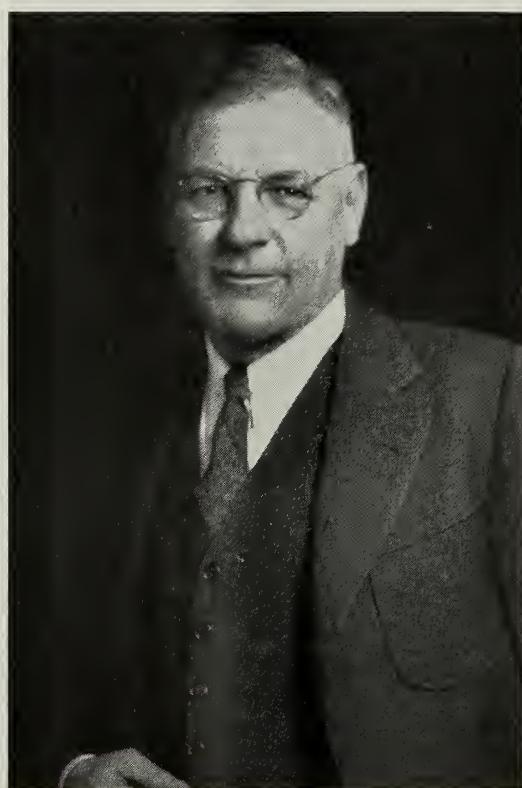
The livestock campaign had only begun. We still had to bring in stock heifers, stocker ewes, and registered rams. Another series of meetings was held at which the farmers discussed the problem of getting these animals. With the financial backing of a Cookeville credit association, we purchased from western sources 403 heifers, 447 stocker ewes, and 17 bulls. Ram sales in Kentucky and Tennessee were attended, and 12 registered Hampshire and Southdown rams were purchased. As a result of this campaign to build up the livestock of the county, we established 45 new beef-production herds with a total of 403 white-faced heifers and 25 good

bulls. We established 15 new sheep flocks with a total of 447 ewes and 12 registered rams.

In the next few years we hope to have Pickett County producing stocker and feeder cattle for our own use and to help supply other counties rather than other counties supplying us. We are also anticipating the production of our own stocker ewes as well as supplying the market with fat lambs. We have also interested a few farmers in raising registered rams to supply our local farmers. This county is well adapted to sheep and cattle. At present, the western ewes brought in are lambing 100 percent, and the lambs are growing very satisfactorily. Our western Hereford heifers are calving.

A motion picture will be made of the successful sheep flocks and cattle herds, showing management methods, feeding methods, pastures, sales, and general results. This picture will be carried to the several communities in the county. We feel that the interest stimulated in livestock improvement has increased the farmer's income, improved community life, and made Pickett County a better place in which to live.

## New Jersey Gets New Director



Prof. Laurence A. Bevan, acting head of the New Jersey Extension Service since early January, was, on May 1, named director to succeed the late Herbert Jonathan Baker.

Trained at the State College of his native Massachusetts, Professor Bevan joined the New Jersey extension staff in 1935 as economist in marketing. Prior to that time he had served as director of the Massachusetts State Bureau of Markets, as a county agent in Connecticut and Massachusetts, as a teacher of vocational agriculture in Massachusetts, as a manager of a potato cooperative in Vermont, and as agricultural agent for the Boston (Mass.) Chamber of Commerce.

As New Jersey's extension marketing specialist, Professor Bevan quickly won the respect of farmers for the soundness of his advice on their marketing problems. One of his accomplishments in this direction was the formulation of a plan for the more efficient movement of surplus crops to retail outlets.

The Federal Bureau of Agricultural Economics has also sought and obtained the assistance of Professor Bevan in its fundamental studies of the wholesale produce markets of Philadelphia and the city of New York.

## Home Agent's Working Creed

"A hundred thousand men coming one after the other could not move a ton weight," said George Washington, "but the united strength of 50 souls transports it with ease." For the last 21 years I have worked for that united strength in Anne Arundel County.

I have striven for cooperation in four ways: First, by aiding groups of women to solve a single problem, whether or not such groups were organized clubs. For instance, after 18 lessons, a nutrition group was eager to learn more about foods; a group of flower-garden lovers gained aid in gardening, and their lawns became a joy to the passer-by.

Second, urging homemakers to see what others are doing, which has stimulated the county council of homemakers' clubs to join with the State council, and conducting tours to beautiful old churches, homes, and fine buildings.

Third, local leadership has been developed by insisting that clubs plan their programs with less help from the agent. More than one-third of the clubs now have local leaders, some very efficient ones who can carry on the work when the agent cannot be with the club. Last year there were 63 volunteer local leaders.

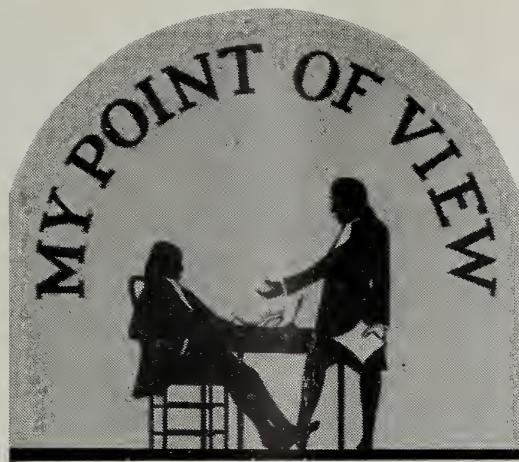
Fourth, homemakers have been encouraged in reading, community singing, and choral activities, as well as in home beautification. In 1930, only 15 homemakers had flower gardens, and last year 207 flower gardens brightened the rural areas. The libraries have reported an increased circulation of books among club members, and treasurers are adding from 5 to 12 dollars to their club funds through the sale and rental of magazines to members. The county glee clubs have attracted the attention of churches in Baltimore and many communities in Anne Arundel and Howard Counties. This awakened interest in music has discovered local talent and given the women a feeling that "all's well with the world."—*Mrs. Georgiana Linthicum, home demonstration agent, Anne Arundel County, Md.*

## Wise Planning Brings Results

What does an extension program mean to a rural community, and how effective is it? This double-barreled question is often asked, and it is often answered; yet it is always timely.

The St. Louis County (Minn.) Club and Farm Bureau Association prides itself on an effective extension program. This effectiveness comes from an understanding of the conditions in the county and an analysis of the most important phases, followed by a program that tends to improve rural conditions.

The 1939 extension program was considered by 50 delegates from the rural areas at a meeting held last fall at the county



This is a place where agents are invited to express their ideas. In keeping with the anniversary spirit, three county extension agents of long experience write of what seems important to them in an appraisal of the work and achievements in their counties.

The Brown community selected the organizing of a bull ring, land clearing, potato-seed-treating demonstration, and a community exhibit at the county fair. This is a more modest program but one that is apt to see complete fulfillment. In fact, the purebred-sire ring has already been formed, and now it is up to the county agent to find a suitable animal.

With 30 communities active in extension work, the results accomplished will add up to a sizable figure. In fact it is not necessary to wait until the end of the year to do the adding; results are already being produced. Two carloads of lime have been ordered, and eight more will be ordered. At the end of the year a prize-winning story can be told of how a good extension program of work produced results in northern St. Louis County.—*August Neubauer, county agricultural agent, St. Louis County, Minn.*

## Yardsticks in Extension Work

I have both a four- and a three-tray filing cabinet within reach of my desk chair. In them are kept such things as I have to refer to quite often.

In using the cabinets I found how awkward it is to get at the first few folders in the front because they fall back into the end of the tray.

The idea struck me that if a curved piece of wood could be fitted in, it would hold the folders out. Just then I remembered about an article in one of the old issues of the Extension Service Review entitled "Yardsticks in Extension Work."

A pliable yardstick was found in the store-room, and it was sawed off three-fourths inch longer than the width of the inside front of the tray.

Now we have all nine filing cabinets in the office equipped with yardsticks.

Just another "Yardstick for the Extension Service."—*R. E. Harman, county agricultural agent, Essex County, N. J.*

## CONTENTS

	Page
Common Goals Give Unity—an editorial	Inside front cover
Southerners List Six Problems.....	<i>William Firor, Ga.</i> 97
Quarter-Century Milepost.....	<i>J. C. Kendall, N. H.</i> 98
Utah Homes—Then and Now.....	<i>E. S. Barrows, Utah</i> 99
Education, Thrift, Cooperation.....	<i>J. A. Evans, Ga.</i> 100
To increase Consumer Buying Power.....	101
A Forest Program.....	<i>F. A. Silcox</i> 102
Illinois Farmers Like Farm-Plan Schools.....	103
Five Fundamental Questions Considered.....	104
Speaking of Population Trends.....	<i>O. E. Baker</i> 105
Building Rural Leadership.....	<i>J. R. Hutcheson, Va.</i> 106
Farmers Practice What Agents Preach	
<i>Mrs. R. A. Redfearn, J. W. Cameron, N. C.</i> 107	
Idaho County Praises Hot School-Lunch.....	108
Negroes Face Their Problems.....	<i>J. B. Pierce</i> 109
Who's Who Among the First Agents.....	110
From Timber to Livestock.....	<i>H. Parrott, Tenn.</i> 112
My Point of View.....	Page 3 of cove-

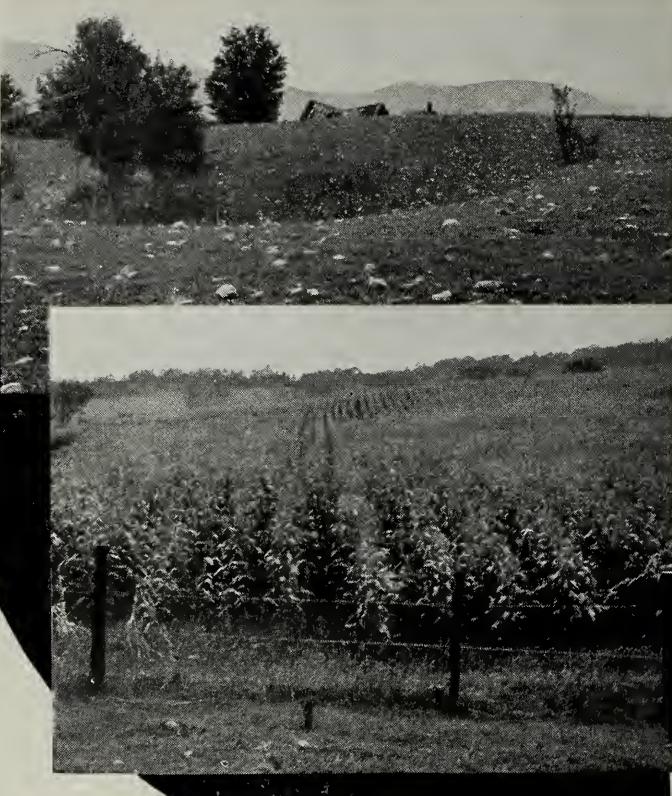
JULY 31 1939

13 1939

# LAND MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Pictures of one community  
all in a 5-mile radius

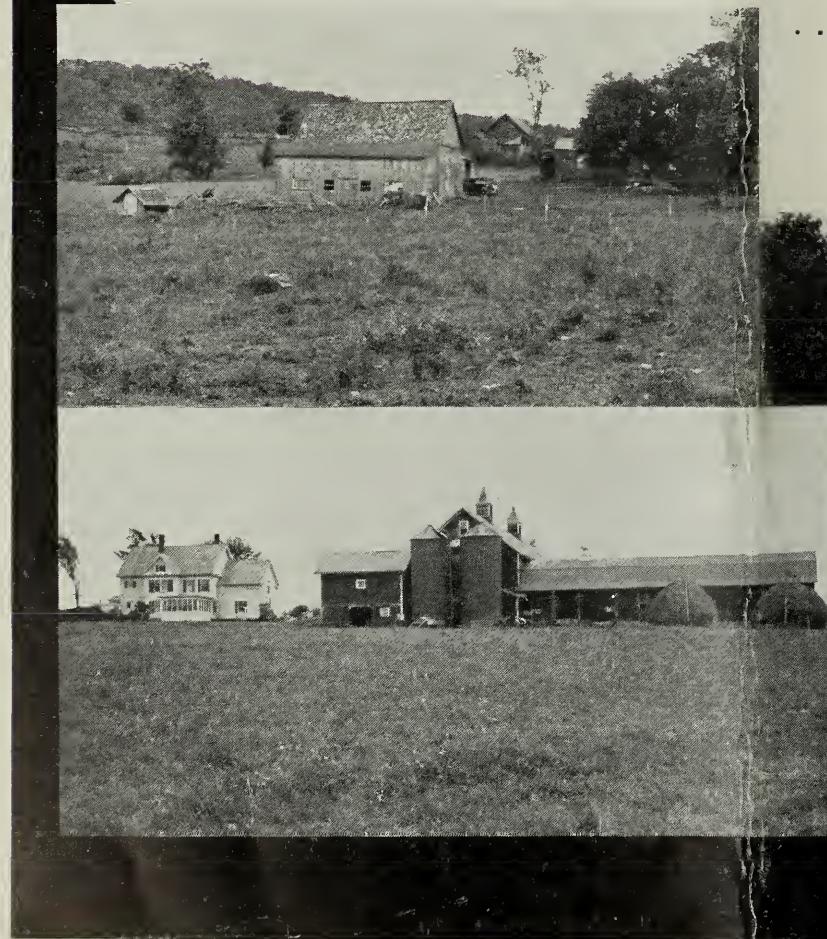
The type of land  
determines largely  
what can be grown . . .



. . . income and living conditions . . .



. . . and the services and facilities  
that can be supported



Land use tours will be conducted this summer all over the United States in connection with the activities of the county land use planning committees. There is no substitute for studying conditions "on the ground."